Peanut the Elephant

By Arnie Lightning

Arnie Lightning Books

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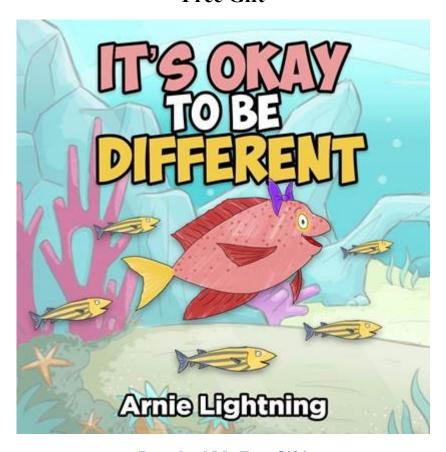
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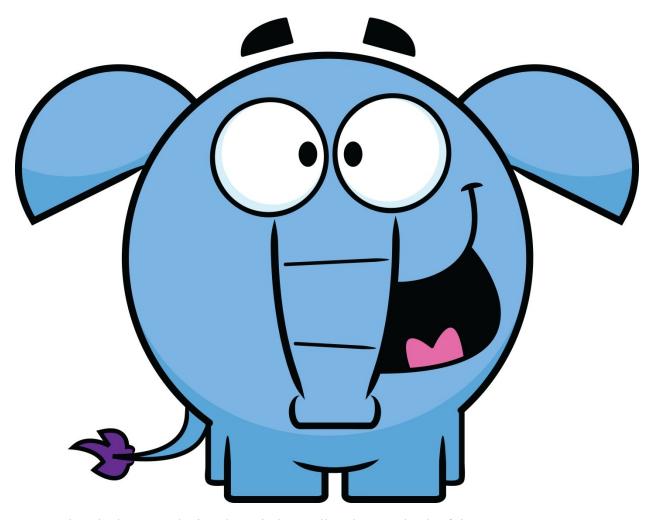
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# **Peanut the Elephant**



Peanut the Elephant was laying down in her stall at the very back of the zoo. It was a very warm day and Peanut was just trying to get out of the heat.

"Peanut," said her best friend, Felix the Pelican. "Where are you?"

Peanut did not hear Felix. She had her ears covered in straw from the stall.

"Oh dear," said Felix. "I think Peanut is playing another trick on us. I wonder where she is."

Felix looked all over the barn and she couldn't find Peanut anywhere.

"Peanut!" shouted Felix. "Where are you?"

There was no answer and Felix was starting to worry.

"Felix," said Stretch the Giraffe. "What is wrong? Why are you yelling?

"Well," explained Felix. "I am looking for Peanut. I can't find her anywhere."

"I see," said Stretch. "That is strange because I actually haven't seen her either."

Peanut woke up and she saw Felix and Stretch talking. She overheard their conversation.

"Do you think she is pulling one of her tricks on us?" asked Felix.

"Maybe," said Stretch. "She sure does like to pull tricks on us."

"Yes," said Felix. "She is quite funny."

"Oh yes," laughed Stretch. "She sure is."

Peanut decided she would play a trick on them. She decided that she would stay hidden for just a little while longer.

"Have you seen Peanut?" Felix asked the zookeeper, who was making his rounds feeding the animals.

"No," said the zookeeper. "I haven't. However, Peanut is a large animal. In fact she is the largest animal in the zoo so I would doubt if we would lose her."

"Well," said Felix. "I have looked everywhere for her and I can't find her."

The zookeeper caught a glimpse of Peanut standing in the corner of the zoo, watching them. He quickly pointed in her direction and Felix saw her as well. They both knew that Peanut was trying to pull a trick on them.

"Well," said the zookeeper loudly, winking at Felix. "Since we can't find Peanut then I guess you can have her share of the food."

Well, as soon as Peanut heard that she came barreling out of her hiding spot just as quickly as she could.

"Oh Peanut!" laughed the zookeeper. "It is nice to see you!"

"Did you say it was dinner time?" asked Peanut.

"As a matter of fact it is," said the zookeeper.

"Yes," said Felix. "It is dinner time and I was just about to get your share of the food too."

"Lucky for me that I came along when I did," laughed Peanut.

"Yes," said Felix. "You are lucky. Where were you all day? We thought you were playing your tricks on us."

"Well," said Peanut. "I was sleeping in the very back of the barn."

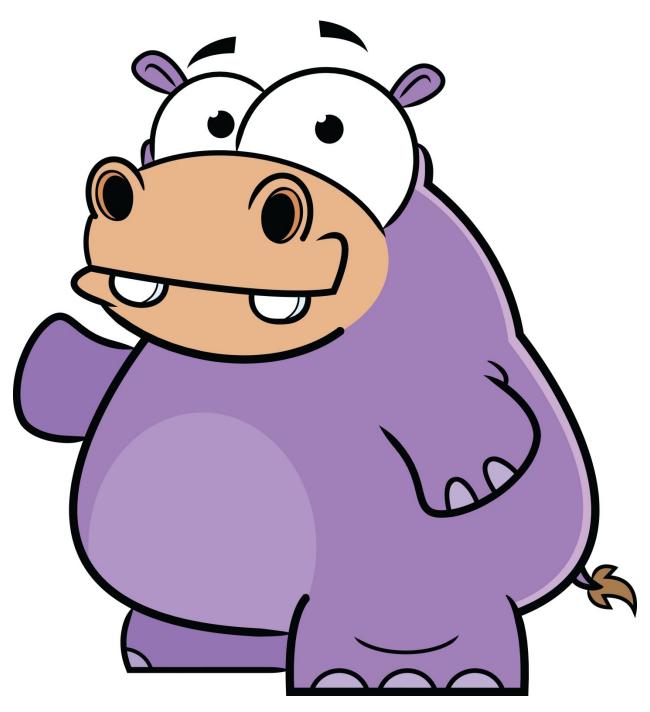
"That was the only place I didn't look for you," said Felix. "I had looked everywhere for you."

"I did have a good rest," said Peanut. "But now I am very hungry."

Peanut ate her dinner and Felix ate his.

"Happy animals," laughed the zookeeper. "That is what we like."

# **Peanut the Elephant Plays with Harry the Hippo**



Peanut the Elephant was having fun playing tag with some of the other animals in the zoo. Her friend Felix the Pelican was watching them.

"Peanut," said Felix. "Where is the new animal, Harry the Hippo? I thought he wanted to play tag today."

"Oh dear!" exclaimed Peanut. "I forgot all about Harry. I was supposed to stop by on the way here. He is going to be so angry with me. He doesn't know anyone here and I promised he could come and play with us."

"How about I go get him?" asked Felix. "That way you can continue to play with your friends."

"I think I should go," said Peanut. "I don't want Harry to be any more upset than he already is."

Peanut went to where Harry was standing in a cool pool of water.

"Harry," said Peanut. "Come on. We are playing tag."

"I thought you were going to come and get me earlier," said Harry.

"Yes," said Peanut, honestly. "I was supposed to come and get you earlier but I forgot and I am sorry."

"You forgot all about me," said Harry. "That doesn't seem to be very fair."

"No," said Peanut. "And it isn't fair. I should have remembered to come and get you. Come on, though. We are still playing tag."

"Can I be it?" asked Harry.

"I don't see why not," said Peanut.

"Okay," said Harry. "I will come and play then."

"Oh good," said Peanut.

Harry and Peanut joined the other animals.

"Why is Harry being it?" asked Stretch the Giraffe. "I thought it was my turn to be it."

"Well," said Peanut. "You see, I forgot to tell Harry that we were playing tag. So I told him that he could be it first."

"I suppose that is okay," said Stretch.

"Thank you for understanding," said Peanut. "I will let you take my turn."

"Really?" asked Stretch.

"Yes," said Peanut.

"That would be great," said Stretch.

Harry had his turn of being it and he had a lot of fun playing tag with the other animals.

"I want to be it again," said Harry.

"Yes," said Peanut. "But we all must take our turn. I promised Stretch that he could have my turn so he is going to be it next."

"How come I can't be it the whole time?" asked Harry.

"Well," said Peanut. "Everyone wants to be it. So, what we do is we take turns. That way everyone gets their chance to be it. That way we play fairly with each other and then everyone will want to play together and have fun."

"That sounds fair," said Harry.

Harry played fairly with all the other animals and he noticed that while each animal was waiting for his turn to play, they all had a lot of fun together.

"I will come and get you tomorrow," said Peanut to Harry when they were all finished playing tag.

"Well," said Harry. "If it is okay with you, I will just meet you here. I can find my way."

"Sure," said Peanut. "We would love to have you join us."

From that day on, Harry had a lot of fun playing with the other animals at the zoo. He fit right in with them and they enjoyed his company as well.

## Peanut the Elephant Makes Friends with Bobby the Bear



Peanut the Elephant was sitting outside, under a very shady tree. It was a very warm day at the zoo and Peanut was trying to take advantage of the shade that she had found.

"Can I sit in the shade too?" asked Bobby the Bear, a new resident at the zoo.

"Sure," said Peanut, moving over to give Bobby some room.

"I thought you would just let me sit under the tree by myself," said Bobby. "Everyone in the zoo seems to be afraid of me."

"Why would I be afraid of you?" asked Peanut.

"Because I have sharp teeth," said Bobby.

"Your sharp teeth don't scare me," said Peanut.

"I have sharp claws too," said Bobby.

"They don't scare me either," said Peanut.

Peanut's friend, Felix the Pelican, came along and was listening to both Peanut and Bobby.

"I am afraid of Bobby's teeth," said Felix. "I am also afraid of his sharp claws."

"Okay," said Peanut. "I can understand why. You are a lot smaller than Bobby and I. I can see that his teeth and claws may seem to be sharp too. However, has he ever used them against you?"

Felix sat and thought about what Peanut had just said to him. He knew Peanut was right. Bobby had never used his teeth and claws on him.

"Perhaps I shouldn't be so quick to judge," said Felix. "Peanut is right. You have never given me any need to think you would use your teeth and claws on me."

"And I wouldn't," said Bobby. "I am a gentle bear. I wouldn't hurt anyone."

One day Felix was walking around in the marsh and Bobby heard a commotion just as he was approaching the marsh. He saw Felix arguing with a fox.

"Do you need some help?" Bobby asked, showing the fox his claws and showing him his teeth.

"No," said the fox, immediately backing away from Felix.

"Thank you," said Felix. "You just helped me with your claws and teeth."

"Yes," said Bobby. "I would never hurt you."

"That was a very nice thing you did for me," said Felix.

"I will always help out a friend in need," said Bobby.

"Well this friend sure does appreciate your kindness," said Felix.

"What happened?" asked Peanut just getting to the marsh.

"Bobby helped me with his teeth and his claws," said Felix. "Bobby is such a good bear."

"Yes," said Peanut. "I do agree."

Peanut, Bobby and Felix hung around the marsh together that day and that fox did not bother Felix any more. Bobby, Felix and Peanut became the best of friends. Bobby always treated Felix and Peanut with respect and he never once tried to use his teeth or his claws on them.

### Peanut the Elephant Plays a Joke on Spotty Cheetah



Peanut the Elephant was at the zoo walking around one afternoon. He saw his friend Felix the Pelican talking to his other friend, Spotty Cheetah.

"Spotty looks very nice today after his bath," said Peanut to himself. "I think he needs to get dirty again and then he can have another bath."

"Why do you want to play a joke like that on Spotty?" asked Felix, overhearing Peanut.

"It would be so much fun watching him get dirty," said Peanut.

"The zookeeper won't like that much," said Felix, thinking of all the hard work they had just done to get Spotty nice and clean. "He spent hours cleaning Spotty."

Peanut thought about it and he did decide that Felix was right. He couldn't have the zookeepers do all that work all over again. Peanut knew they had done a lot of work to get Spotty nice and clean.

"Yes," said one of the zookeepers, who had been listening to Peanut. "You'd better hope that Spotty stays nice and clean. If he gets dirty today, I think we will make you bath him."

"Oh dear," said Peanut. "I sure hope Spotty does stay clean."

"I am going to go and play now," said Spotty a few minutes later.

Peanut watched as Spotty ran as fast as he could to the edge of the meadow. He was always amazed at just how fast Spotty could run.

"Look at him run!" exclaimed Peanut. "He sure is fast."

"He sure is," said Felix. "And look he is going to run right through the pool of mud."

"Oh my!" exclaimed Peanut. "He sure is. I guess I don't have to help him get dirty. He is going to do that by himself."

"Yes," said Felix. "I guess you are forgetting what that zookeeper said to you this morning about Spotty staying clean."

Peanut wasn't sure what Felix was referring to. He had totally forgotten what the zookeeper had said to him.

"I suppose you don't want to be the one that is going to have to clean Spotty when he gets dirty," said Felix. "Now do you?"

Peanut all of sudden remembered what the zookeeper had said to him. He took off in the direction of Spotty just as quickly as he could. Cheetahs happen to be the fastest of all animals but because Peanut was a large animal, she could cover a lot of ground in a matter of a few seconds. She reached Spotty just in time.

"Spotty!" exclaimed Peanut. "Don't you dare get dirty!"

Spotty was just going to dive right in the pool of mud but when he heard Peanut's voice he decided to step back.

"You were lucky," said Spotty. "I was going to jump right in that pool of mud."

"I know," said Peanut, laughing. "You just don't know how lucky I was."

On the way back to the barns, Peanut happened to trip and he fell into a small pool of mud.

"Why did you get dirty?" asked the zookeeper knowing that Peanut would now have to be cleaned.

"It was an accident," said Peanut. "I tripped and fell."

"Well," laughed the zookeeper. "Let's get you cleaned up."

# **Peanut the Elephant and a Bag Full of Peanuts**



Peanut the Elephant was sitting in the back of the barn at the zoo enjoying her daily bag of warm, roasted peanuts.

"You better enjoy those," said the zookeeper. "That might be the last bag of peanuts you are going to get for a while."

"What?" asked Peanut. "What do you mean?"

"The peanut factory is going on strike," said the zookeeper.

"Oh dear," said Peanut.

Peanut told his friend, Felix the Pelican, what the zookeeper had just told her.

"How will I ever survive without my peanuts?" asked Peanut.

"I have an idea," said Felix. "We need to stop the strike."

"Oh," said Peanut. "That is such a good idea."

Peanut and Felix went to the peanut factory that afternoon. They talked with the union representatives.

"We can't just stop the strike," said Mr. Brown, head of the union.

"Why not?" asked Peanut.

"Well," said Mr. Brown. "The workers in the factory are not happy. They want a raise and they want more benefits."

"Why can't you just give them a raise and give them more benefits," said Peanut. "They are good hard workers. Aren't they?

"Well," said Mr. Brown. "Yes, they are good hard workers."

"Then give them a raise and more benefits," said Peanut.

"What if we don't," said Mr. Brown. "What are you going to do about it?"

"Have you ever seen an angry elephant?" asked Felix.

"No," said Mr. Brown. "I can't say that I have."

"Well," said Felix. "I really don't think you would want to either."

"You know," said Mr. Brown, thinking about what Felix had said. "I really like your direct approach. I am going to talk to the union and see what we can do."

Later that afternoon, a truck from the peanut factory stopped at the zoo.

"What are you doing at the zoo?" the zookeeper asked the truck driver.

"We have a truck full of peanuts to be delivered to Peanut the Elephant," said the truck driver.

"Oh," said the zookeeper. "I know Peanut will be very happy about that but why are you giving him free peanuts."

"Well," said the driver. "Peanut and his friend, Felix, stopped the factory workers from going on strike."

"That is amazing," said the zookeeper.

"Yes," said the driver. "We were all very happy with the settlement that the union gave us and we owe it all to Peanut."

"Free peanuts," said Peanut, when the zookeeper brought him some more peanuts.

"Yes," said the zookeeper. "There is a whole truckload of them here for you."

"Why?" asked Peanut. "Why are they giving me a truckload of free peanuts?"

"Well," said the zookeeper. "You and Felix were able to stop the strike at the peanut factory."

Peanut and Felix were very happy about what they had accomplished. Felix even ate a few of the peanuts himself.

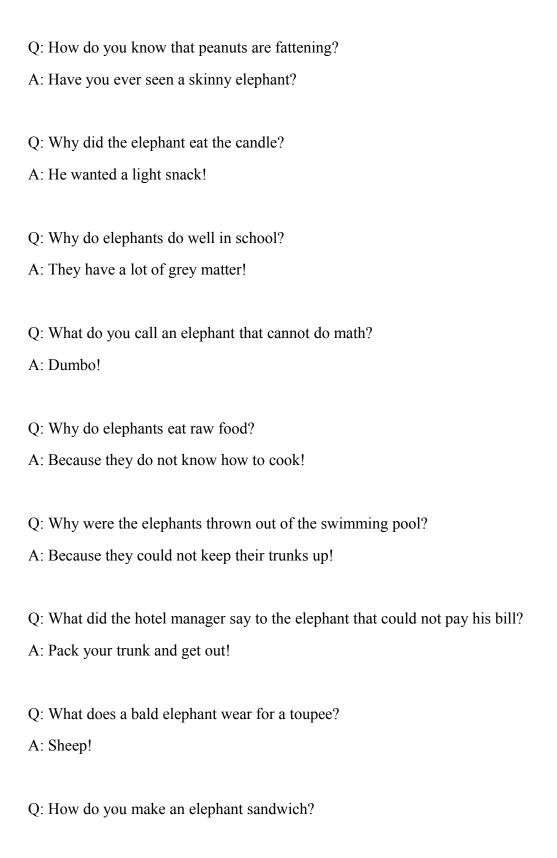
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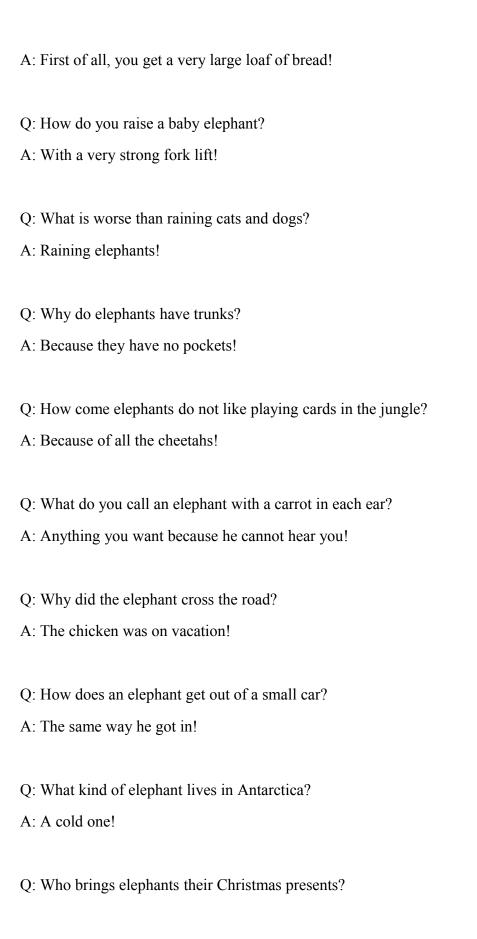
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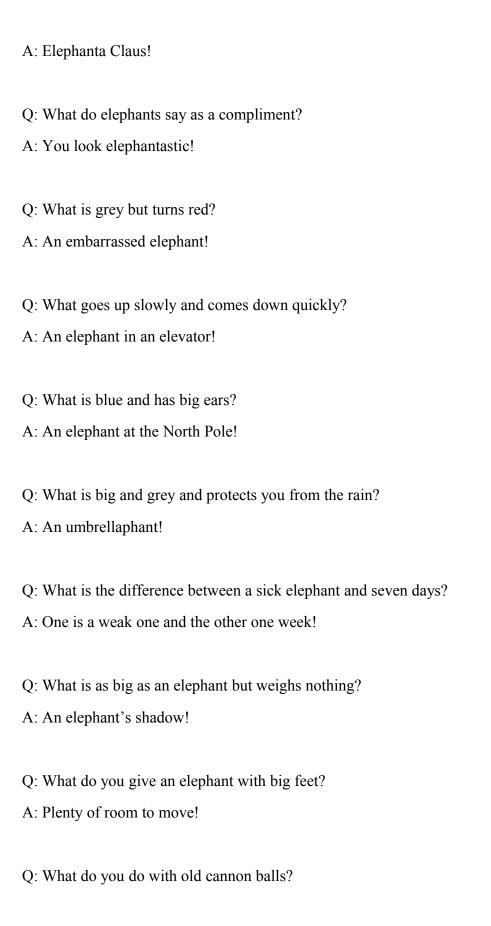
Can you do me a small favor? Please leave a review because I'd love to find out what you thought about the book, your opinions, ideas, and suggestions. I personally read all of your reviews and use your feedback to create even better books for you and your child to enjoy.



# **Funny Jokes**







A: Give them to elephants to use as marbles!

Q: What animals were last to leave the ark?

A: The elephants because they had to pack up their trunks!

Q: Why did the gum cross the road?

A: Because it was stuck to the elephant's foot!

### **About the Author**



*Arnie Lightning* is a dreamer. He believes that everyone should dream big and not be afraid to take chances to make their dreams come true. Arnie enjoys writing, reading, doodling, and traveling. In his free time, he likes to play video games and run. Arnie lives in Mississippi where he graduated from The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS.

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